

# BLACK SCIENCE

1

RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
DEAN WHITE



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1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680



IT WASN'T UNTIL I'D MET EVERYONE  
ELSE'S MEASURE OF SUCCESS THAT  
I REALIZED I'D FAILED MYSELF.

MORE IMPORTANTLY--

I FAILED YOU, SARA.

WHAT ARE  
THEY?!

JUST  
RUN!

EVERY CHOICE WE MAKE--

--EACH A SINGLE QUANTUM EVENT--

BRANCHING OUT--

OOF!

--CREATING AN  
INFINITE CHAIN  
OF POSSIBLE  
DIMENSIONS.

GRANT!

COUNTLESS WORLDS  
WHERE I DIDN'T FUCK  
IT ALL UP.

WHERE I DIDN'T  
ABANDON YOU.

WHERE I  
HELPED  
RAISE OUR  
CHILDREN.

WHERE I DIDN'T OBSESS  
OVER FORBIDDEN SCIENCE.

JESUS,  
GRANT--  
GET UP  
RIGHT  
NOW!



--INSTEAD OF HERE--  
IN THIS MESS I MADE.

THERE'S  
A CLEARING  
UP AHEAD!

EVERY DECISION  
A MISSTEP--

--THE PERFECT SEQUENCE  
OF WRONG CHOICES.

JESUS,  
WHAT  
DO WE DO,  
GRANT?!





# BLACK

RICK REMENDER • MATTEO SCALERA  
STORY ART

# SCIENCE

DEAN WHITE • RUS WOOTON • SEBASTIAN GIRNER  
PAINTED ART LETTERING EDITOR



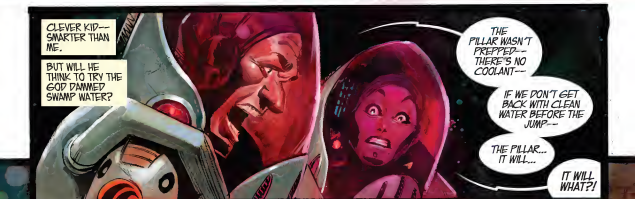
THEY'RE  
RIGHT  
BEHIND  
US!

WE  
HAVE TO  
JUMP!

WILL SHAWN KNOW?

WE'D NEVER  
SURVIVE THE  
FALL--WE HAVE  
TO TRY AND GET  
PAST THEM,  
JEN--

WILL HE REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS IF  
THE PILLAR DOESN'T GET COOLANT?



CLEVER KID--  
SMARTER THAN  
ME.

BUT WILL HE  
THINK TO TRY THE  
GOD DAMNED  
SWAMP WATER?

THE  
PILLAR WASN'T  
PREPPED--  
THERE'S NO  
COOLANT--

IF WE DON'T GET  
BACK WITH CLEAN  
WATER BEFORE THE  
JUMP--

THE PILLAR...  
IT WILL...

IT WILL  
WHAT?!



EXPLODE. THEY'LL  
DIE, JEN.

JESUS  
CHRIST!  
WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL  
ANYONE?

I DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
FRIGHTEN MY  
KIDS ANYMORE  
THAN--



HER FACE  
DISAPPEARS.

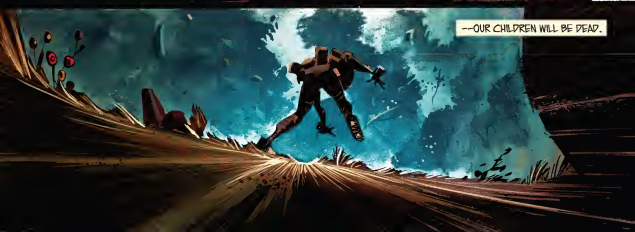
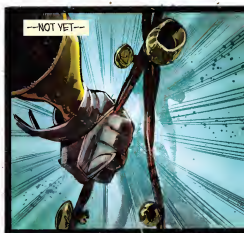
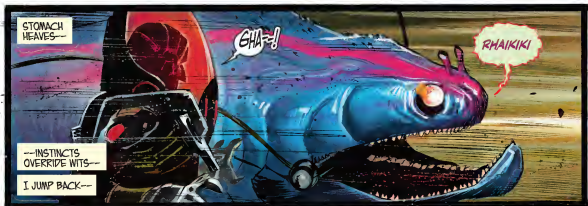
A MIST OF RED  
FROZEN IN TIME.



BECAUSE I  
IGNORED  
WARD--

TORR!

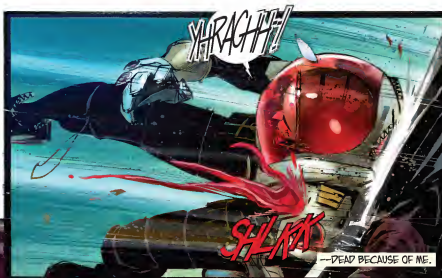
--WOULDN'T  
LISTEN--







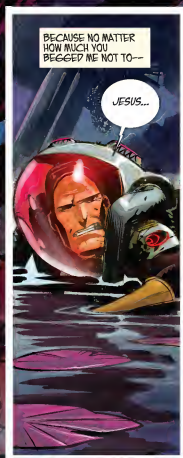
ALL OF THEM--



--DEAD BECAUSE OF ME.



BECAUSE I NEVER LISTEN.



BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU BEGGED ME NOT TO--

JESUS...



--I DELVED INTO BLACK SCIENCE.

WUB TERNIN?



KREESH



GLARBA--  
TORR!

CAREE-  
KA-KA-KA

YOU KNEW, SARA.

YOU ALWAYS KNEW  
THIS WAS A CURSE--



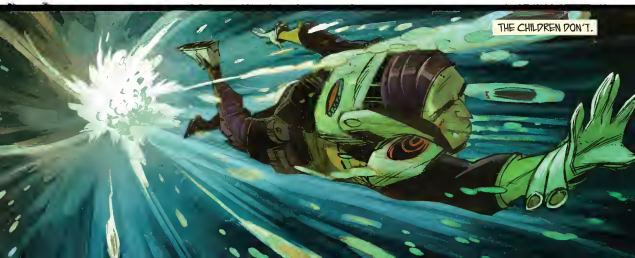
--KNEW IT WOULD COST US EVERYTHING.

AND I INVITED IT.

AND I DESERVE THIS--



--BUT YOU DON'T.



THE CHILDREN DON'T.

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN  
SO OVERCONFIDENT?

NO.

NOT OVERCONFIDENT—

I KNEW  
THE RISKS.

JEN DID AS WELL.

MAKE HER  
SACRIFICE  
MATTER.

CAN'T LOSE FAITH NOW.

STILL TIME.

TURN THIS  
AROUND.

I WON'T FAIL THEM, SARA.

I WON'T LOSE  
OUR CHILDREN—

NOT AFTER EVERYTHING  
ELSE I'VE COST YOU.

≡GASP!≡





CRIBBITE

KEEP RUNNING.

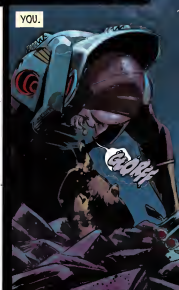


WHAT I DO BEST.

RUNNING FROM  
ANYTHING THAT  
FORCED ME TO  
FOLLOW RULES.

SCHOOL.

FATHERHOOD.



YOU.

GARY



SEQUESTERED  
IN MY LAB...

THERE WAS A  
BEAUTY IN THE  
SELF-IMPOSED  
LONELINESS.

AND WHEN  
IT WAS TOO  
MUCH--



--THERE WAS REBECCA.

FIVE  
MINUTES  
LEFT...

TWO  
ENOUGH.



WEDDING VOWS--  
MORE RULES I  
WOULDN'T FOLLOW.

BUILT MY ANARCHIST LEAGUE OF  
SCIENTISTS ON REASON AND EMPIRICISM.

NO TOLERANCE FOR BLIND OBEDIENCE,  
FINANCIAL MOTIVATION, EGO, OR  
POLITICKING FOR STATION.

BUILT ON ONE RULE--

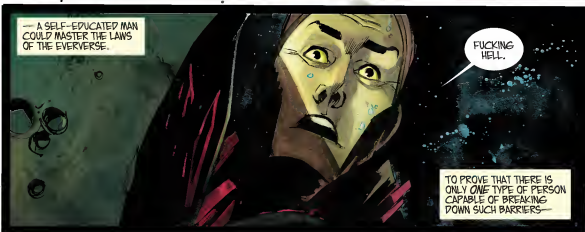
THERE IS NO AUTHORITY  
BUT YOURSELF.



AFTER A LIFETIME OF POWERLESSNESS AND  
INSECURITY, OPPOSITION TO AUTHORITY  
FORCED ME TO HAVE FAITH IN MYSELF.

TO TRUST MY OWN JUDGMENT--

TO PROVE, MOTIVATED SOLELY  
BY THE FIRE WITHIN--



-- A SELF-EDUCATED MAN  
COULD MASTER THE LAWS  
OF THE EVERVERSE.

FUCKING  
HELL.

TO PROVE THAT THERE IS  
ONLY ONE TYPE OF PERSON  
CAPABLE OF BREAKING  
DOWN SUCH BARRIERS--



—AN ANARCHIST.

⌘IBBIT⌘

⌘IBBIT⌘

⌘IBBIT⌘

⌘IBBIT⌘

DOORS—

MUST LEAD TO THE  
TEMPLE I SAW TOPSIDE.

⌘IBBIT⌘

THEN IT'S JUST A  
FEW HUNDRED  
FEET TO THE PILLAR—

EASY NOW,  
KEVIN!

JUST  
WALKING  
THROUGH.

⌘IBBIT⌘

NOT SO NICE.

NOTHING EVER AS IT APPEARS.

SWIRL

VISION GOES  
UPSIDE-DOWN—

YERCH!

⌘IBBIT⌘

—THERMAL  
BURNS—

—HEART IN ATRIAL  
FIBRILLATION—

WON'T SURVIVE  
ANOTHER—





GET  
THE HELL  
BACK!

SIGHT OF THEIR  
DECAPITATED BUDDY  
DOES THE TRICK--

HEART POUNDING  
IN MY EARS--

DEAFENING--

FROG'S HEAD GIVES A FINAL  
INVOLUNTARILY SPASM--

--POOR BASTARD--

--WAS JUST AS  
TERRIFIED AS ME.

HOW WAS I EVER  
SO CARELESS?

SO LOST?

LET THEIR DISDAIN  
DRIVE ME TO THIS.

LET THEIR DISMISSAL PROPEL  
ME TO OVERCOMPENSATE.

LET THE DEAD-EYED DILATANTS AND HEARTLESS  
MANIPULATORS BREAK ME AGAINST MY OWN RESOLVE.

LET MY HEART WITHER--  
COMPACTED AND AFRAID--

--ENCASED IN  
A SELF-WPOSED  
PRISON  
LABORATORY.

FOR WHAT?

WHAT DID YOU  
REALLY WANT TO  
SAY TO THE WORLD,  
GRANT MCKAY?

WHAT DID YOU  
REALLY WANT TO  
LEAVE BEHIND?

DECODING THE WALLS OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION--

--TO UNLIMITED RECOURSES AND TECHNOLOGY.

THE KEY TO SAVING MANKIND.

BUT WHAT DOES  
THAT MATTER...



...IF I HAD TO BREAK  
UP MY OWN FAMILY IN  
THE PROCESS?

SOH—!  
REBIT  
REBITTE

REBITTE

DEEP-  
DEEP-  
REBITE

THE DANGER—

A FISH WOMAN—  
LIKE THE THINGS  
THAT KILLED JEN.  
A SLAVE.

SELUGE  
SELUGE

HER FROG TORTURERS  
CACKLE PERVERSIONS.

GURGLED ON THE  
BLOOD AND FLESH  
OF HER PEOPLE.

SCIMPITE

THEY TORTURE HER.

—RITUALISTIC—

SWIIP

—A CAT TOYING  
WITH ITS FOOD.

LET THEM  
KILL HER.  
KILL HER LIKE  
HER FRIENDS  
KILLED JEN.

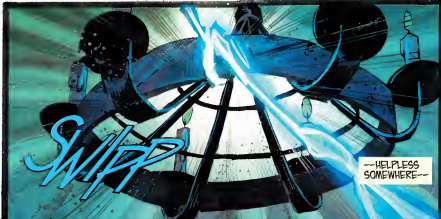
WOOGAA—!

JEN WITH A  
DAUGHTER  
AT HOME.  
MY OWN  
DAUGHTER  
WAITING  
ON ME.

FISH-LADY IS  
SOMEONE'S  
DAUGHTER.



SOMEONE MISSING HER, TOO—



—HELPLESS  
SOMEWHERE—



—WONDERING  
WHERE SHE IS.

REBITT?K

BUT I DO KNOW WHERE SHE IS.



KREEEET--K



SHE'S BEING  
TORTURED--

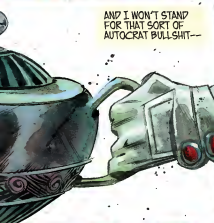
--DEGRADED--



--FORCED  
TO DANCE--

I'VE GOT  
YOU.

--WHILE JOWLS  
THE FROG-KING  
EATS HER PEOPLE.



AND I WON'T STAND  
FOR THAT SORT OF  
AUTOCRAT BULLSHIT--



NOT IN ANY  
DIMENSION.

KREEEET--K



HOLD  
ON!

"EVERY ONE OF US  
IS, IN THE COSMIC  
PERSPECTIVE,  
PRECIOUS.

"IF A HUMAN  
DISAGREES WITH  
YOU, LET HIM LIVE.

"IN A HUNDRED  
BILLION GALAXIES...



"...YOU WILL NOT  
FIND ANOTHER."

CARL SAGAN'S GHOST,  
DROPPING THE SCIENCE  
OF MERCY.

SON  
OF  
A--



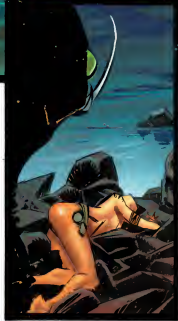
FULL PITCHER OF  
FRESH WATER--

PERFECT FOR THE  
COOLANT SYSTEM.

THE GIRL'S SAFE.

EVERYTHING'S  
COMING UP--





PILATION IN THE PUPILS  
INDICATES ATTRACTION.



A HUSBAND  
AND WIFE  
REUNITED.

GALIA...  
TORNNO?

DEET  
GALIA...

RREEEBBEEET!



THE LORDS OF  
THE MANOR HAVE  
OTHER IDEAS.

RREEEBBEEET!!!



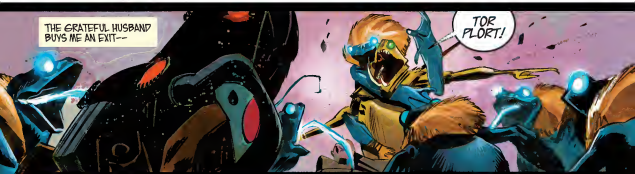
REEB!

TORBO!

THEY ATTACK WITH FEROCITY--

AN OLD RIVALRY--

A FAMILIAR DANCE.



THE GRATEFUL HUSBAND  
BUYS ME AN EXIT--

TOR  
FLORT!



KARMA WINS THE DAY.



60 SECONDS  
BEFORE MY  
INVENTION  
EVAPORATES  
THEM ALL--

--LUNGS  
WON'T  
TAKE AIR--

YEARS OF WEED,  
STRESS AND  
INACTIVITY--



THE THOUGHT  
OF WHAT AWAITS  
IF I FAIL KEEPS  
ME MOVING--

PIA AND  
NATHAN--  
BLOWN  
APART--

AND ME--  
ALIVE

...STRANDED HERE WITH THE MEMORY.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
THEY LEFT—BUT  
THEY'LL BE  
BACK!

LESS THAN A  
MINUTE LEFT—  
AND THE CONTROL  
PANEL IS SMASHED,  
REBECCA.

WE  
COULDN'T  
STOP IT IF  
WE WANTED  
TO.

JESUS  
CHRIST,  
KADIR—  
GRANT'S  
KIDS—

ARE OLD  
ENOUGH TO  
HEAR THE  
TRUTH.

THE TRUTH  
IS, IF THE PILLAR  
JUMPS BEFORE  
THEY GET BACK—  
WARD AND I WILL  
JUST COME RIGHT  
BACK AND GET  
THEM.

SHAWN'S  
RIGHT, KIDS.  
WE'D NEVER  
LEAVE ANYONE  
BEHIND.







HEY—  
THIS THING  
IS ABOUT  
TO JUMP—

WHERE'S  
JEN?



WHAT DID I  
OVERLOOK?

NO BURN  
MARKS—

NOTHING  
MELTED.

JESUS—

THE PANEL  
WAS SWASHED  
MANUALLY.

SABOTAGED?



DAD?

WHERE  
IS SHE,  
DAD?

SHE'S...  
JEN'S GONE,  
NATHAN.

B-BUT  
WE'RE NOT  
GOING TO  
LEAVE HER  
HERE, RIGHT?



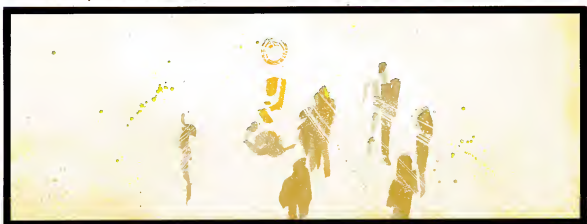
WE ARE GOING  
TO COME BACK  
FOR HER, NATHAN.  
THAT'S WHAT YOUR  
FATHER IS  
TRYING TO  
SAY—

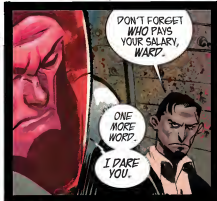
NO SHAWN.  
NO LIES.

SOMETHING  
KILLED HER.

JEN'S  
DEAD.









TO BE CONTINUED...

# BLACK SCIENCE



BLACK SCIENCE Letters Page  
Write us and we'll publish  
your letters next issue:  
[WriteRemender@gmail.com](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)

***My name is Rick Remender, and I am an addict.***

I'm addicted to developing new comics. And, as any addiction, it's only grown worse over time, to the point where I have no hope of controlling it anymore.

The root of my addiction goes back to 1997 when some friends and I produced our first self-published comic book. We all worked at the same animation studio during the day and spent our nights getting together to write and draw and eventually publish. It was exactly the sensation heroin addicts describe the first time they shoot up. It gave me a charge unlike anything else and doing more was all I could think about from that point forward. Nothing can compare to creating characters and worlds out of thin air with your friends and making a book exactly the way you think it should be made, pure creative freedom, purity of intention, with no boundaries.

So we began self-publishing more comic books and the addiction just got worse. It got so bad I quit my day job as a feature film animator in order to give independent comic books a chance, to see what would happen. This was before there was any road to financial reward for doing independent comics. This was before any real potential for films or television and before independent comics lead anyone to any mainstream work. It didn't matter. I was hooked and no longer had a say in it. I had no choice; I was going to make comics no matter what the consequences. And for the

next decade those consequences were high.

Much like a drug addict after quitting my job I soon also shed my house, dog, girlfriend, car, and moved to San Francisco to be closer to where the action was. From 1997 till about 2009 I wrote and/or drew something like 25 creator-owned graphic novels worth of material. It didn't matter how many copies they sold, it didn't matter how hard the fight to keep them going. No matter how broke I was, or how disinterested the industry seemed, I was a junkie and I would have my fix.

Comic books changed my life.

Comic books gave me a life.

And comic books have consumed nearly all of my time since.

Being back in the saddle at Image is a joy. Nothing can quite compare to the thrill I feel developing a new series from ground up and launching it into the world. I had to tap the vein again and Image made it incredibly easy. They helped me buy a new rig, fresh needles, and a pouch of the sweet brown. I'm glad to be back on the horse.

Matteo Scalera and color ninja Dean White are one of the very best teams I've had the privilege of working with. Fast, fluid, and dynamic pages beautifully rendered with wildly imaginative color palettes. They exceed expectations on any challenge I present them with, and that makes BLACK SCIENCE the perfect title to showcase what they

are capable of. Because we're going to be exploring strange new worlds every few issues as Grant McKay and his Anarchist League of Scientists stumble through the Eververse.

I became pals with our series editor Sebastian Girner at Marvel. We worked closely together to create the big fun of FRANKEN-CASTLE with Tony Moore. And during that I realized he shared our love of "anything goes" storytelling and had a great instinct for story in general.

Rus Wooton and I have been working together for nearly ten years now. From FEAR AGENT to LAST DAYS OF AMERICAN CRIME, he lettered and designed, and he dealt with my endless reworking of pages and pedantic notes and he always stuck with it, to stunning effect. The logo he designed for this series stands as one of my favorites from any comic ever.

Our hero Grant McKay is a strident individualist who must also pay the consequences for his addiction to create and for his adherence to the anarchist manifesto. This is the journey of a self-taught scientist who disobeyed the laws of man, and delved into the forbidden black sciences and the incredible adventures they thrust him into.

We can all identify with him a little bit.

And there is no twelve-step program for either of our addictions.

See you in 30 days,  
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